

## SHERMAN'S BILL AMENDED.

**MR. VEST'S PROPOSITION VOTED DOWN AND MR. PLUMPTON'S ADOPTED.****The House Passes the Resolution Concerning American Citizens in British Jails—The Amount of Land Grants to Railroads**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—In the Senate today Mr. Lapham introduced a joint resolution requiring the Secretary of War to contract for the improvement of navigation in the Harlem River by the construction of a channel 300 feet wide and 15 feet deep from the Hudson River to the end of Randall's Island; the work to be completed by July 1, 1862, at a cost not exceeding \$1,000,000. It was referred, Mr. Anthony, from the Committee on Printing, reported back the petition for the publication of enough copies of the reports of Congress to supply every family in the land. He said some eminent paper maker must have got up that petition. It would cost more than \$70,000 a year. The committee, on his request, was excused from further consideration of the subject.

A resolution presented by Mr. Windom, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, calling upon the President for all the correspondences between the United States and its diplomatic agents in Mexico and Guatemala since Jan. 1, 1851, and any information he may have on the subject, was adopted.

After the introduction of some minor bills the Senate resumed the consideration of the Sherman 3 per cent. bill. Mr. Vest submitted a modification of his amendment, making it read that from and after July 1, 1862, the 3 per cent. bonds authorized by this act shall be the only bonds receivable as security for national bank circulation from national banks organized after said date, or from national banks thereafter applying for an increase of their circulation to the extent of such amount as seems necessary for the sum, kept and prompt payment of the public money deposited with such banks. Provided, that the Secretary of the Treasury shall have power, and it is hereby given to him, to make any arrangement to make it impossible for him to issue the amount of bonds required; and provided further, that section 4 of the act of March 3, 1851, relating to the circulation of the national bank currency, and for other purposes be repealed.

After a debate, in which Senators Hawley and Parsons were the principal participants, the amendment was rejected, 32 to 28. Mr. Hawley, before the vote, temporarily withdrew his amendment with the understanding that if it was adopted he would renew it.

The Senate then took up Mr. Plumb's amendment. There was a debate in which Senator Arnold, Mr. Ladd, Mr. Lathrop, and Mr. Parker, supported Mr. Plumb, while Mr. Lapham, Mr. Ladd, and Mr. Parker, voted against it. Mr. Plumb then withdrew all the clauses of his amendment except one directing that the surviving expenses in excess of \$100,000,000, to be paid for the same purposes as the discussion was confined to this proposition. After further debate, Plumb's amendment was rejected, 33 to 32. It made no way.

That the Senate of the United States, in the exercise of its right to demand the redemption of United States notes, in excess of \$100,000,000, to be paid for the same purposes as the discussion was confined to this proposition, and the sum of \$100,000,000 so left in the treasury, may be diminished except in the redemption of United States notes.

In the House Mr. Rice of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported back the bill authorizing the construction of a building for the accommodation of the library. It was referred to the Committee of Education.

The House then resumed the consideration of the resolution reported from the Committee of Foreign Affairs, requesting the President to extend the rights of American citizens confined in English prisons.

Mr. Orth supported the resolution and ridiculed Mr. Robinson's New York speech, in which he denied that it was the intention of the United States to bombard Liverpool and lay London in ruins. It was agreed that the bill be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The following was received from a colored gentleman whose photo accompanied it:

CHARLES, S. C., Jan. 23.

**Mr. Jerome P. T. R. G.**  
I am sorry that my personal appearance excludes me from a deal. I do not claim to be handsome, but I am not ugly either. I have a good nose, and a pretty face, and I am sure you will like me. I go on an elephant into the ring any where.

The next letter was written on both sides of a half sheet of note paper by the father:

Troy, N.Y., Jan. 26.

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